

June 13, 2007

Contact: Robin Winchell (202) 225-4031

WASHINGTON, D.C. -U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon (D-LA) today requested a meeting between members of the House of Representatives' leadership and Governor Kathleen Blanco to address the projected shortfall in Road Home funding. Over 145,000 Louisianians have applied to the Road Home program for grants to either rebuild or sell their hurricane-damaged homes. Louisiana has received \$6.2 billion from the federal government for the program so far, but officials estimate the Road Home could need up to \$5 billion more to make sure all eligible applicants receive the full amount of grant money they qualify for.

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"Louisianians have waited anxiously for almost two years to see if they would get the funds they need to rebuild their homes and move on with their lives," Rep. Melancon said today. **"Now, they face the added uncertainty of whether the money will run out before their check is cut. Regardless of who or what caused this shortfall, we need to work together immediately to solve the problem.**

"I have asked the Governor to meet with Congressional leaders in Washington as soon

as possible so she can brief them on the full extent of the problem we are facing in Louisiana. I am hopeful that once we get everyone in the same room, we will be able to walk away with a plan for making the program solvent.□ Louisianians have already suffered enough uncertainty about their future, but by working together I believe the Congress and the Governor can make sure people at least can count on having the money they need to rebuild their homes."

In letters to both parties, Rep. Melancon noted that the meeting needed to happen as soon as possible, preferably early next week. Rep. Melancon wrote, **"Because the House of Representatives appropriations process for FY08 is quickly drawing to a close, we need to address these issues very soon should we determine that an additional congressional appropriation or other legislative fix is necessary."**

Click [here](#) to view the letters.